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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,719	01/30/2004	Hidehiko Ogawa	P24494	6058

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RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

LEE, TOMMY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/767,719

Applicant(s)

OGAWA, HIDEHIKO

Examiner

Thomas D. Lee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/461,402.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/1/04, 7/6/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☒ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: IDS filed 3/3/05.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 11-17, 20-23, 26-29, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,742,769 (Lee et al., hereinafter Lee).

Regarding claims 1-5 and 11-15, Lee discloses an image data communication apparatus connected to an image data source and to a network, and transmitting an e-mail to a receiving apparatus via the network, the e-mail including a mail from command and a mail message (column 7, lines 26-39), the image data communication apparatus comprising: a memory configured to store a mail address of at least one user (password and e-mail information associated with registered users stored in subscriber database (column 5, lines 4-6)); and a panel section configured to select the mail address of at least one user stored in the memory (in order to log in, a user enters the e-mail address and password for authentication (column 5, lines 7-15)); and a controller configured to

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set the mail address of the user into the mail message of the e-mail, whereby the mail address of the user set into the mail message of the e-mail can be utilized as a destination for a reply to the e-mail, the reply being sent from the receiving apparatus, or whereby a reply to the e-mail is returned to the mail address of the user (user's e-mail address copied into "reply-to" field (column 7, lines 36-40), enabling reply from receiving apparatus (column 7, lines 51-59)). The panel section comprises a personal computer connected to the image data communication apparatus and displaying an HTML document for storing the mail message of the user in the memory (PENTIUM®-based personal computer running on a 32-bit operating system such as Windows NT (column 3, lines 23-28)).

Lee does not disclose the transmission of image data attached to the e-mail. However, it is well known in the art that image data may be transmitted as an attachment to an e-mail message. It is common practice to transmit a document or a picture via e-mail by scanning the document or picture and attaching it to the e-mail, and in such a case the attached document is inherently converted into a format for e-mail transmission. By providing for the transmission of scanned image data as an attachment, a greater variety of image data can be transmitted for immediate reception at the receiving apparatus, and thus it would have been obvious to modify the teaching of Lee by providing a scanner for inputting image data so that the image data may be transmitted as an attachment to an e-mail message, as is well known in the art.

Regarding claims 16, 17, 20 and 21, Lee further discloses a transmitter configured to transmit an e-mail to a receiving apparatus via the network, the e-mail including a mail from command and a mail message (column 7, lines 26-35).

Claims 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32 and 33 are method claims corresponding to above-rejected apparatus claims 1, 5, 11, 15, 16, 17, 20 and 21, respectively. The method steps are either disclosed in Lee, or would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, as set forth above.

4. Claims 6-10, 18, 19, 24, 25, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S. Patent 5,878,230 (Weber et al., hereinafter Weber).

These claims differ from the above-rejected claims in that a reply to the e-mail can be sent to the user without requiring input of the mail address of the user at the receiving apparatus. Lee discloses the sending of a reply to the user, as mentioned above, but does not explicitly state that the user is not required to input the user's mail address. This limitation is disclosed in Weber (in known prior art system, a reply attribute is automatically generated, directing a reply to the sender or originator (column 3, lines 21-27)). Thus a person receiving an e-mail message need not enter the sender's e-mail address in the "to" field when replying to a message to the sender, thereby eliminating the possibility of entering the sender's address incorrectly. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Lee by providing automatic reply attribute generation, as disclosed in Weber.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas D. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7436. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5:00), alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thomas D. Lee  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2624

tdl  
September 27, 2005